

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION NATO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL POTPOURRI

1. PPDC AND UDE TO MERGE APRIL 4. PPDC LEADER ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA TOLD MADRID'S "HOJA DE LUNES" LAST NIGHT THAT BARRING UNFORESEEN COMPLICATIONS, HIS PPDC AND THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UDE WOULD OFFICIALLY MERGE TODAY. THE PUBLIC REFUSAL OF CONTROVERSIAL UDE SECGEN MONREAL LUQUE TO ACCEPT ANY LEADERSHIP POST IN THE MERGED PARTY APPEARS TO HAVE CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE FORMATION OF THIS "PARTIDO DEMOCRATA CRISTIANO," O WHICH ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA REPORTEDLY WILL BE PRESIDENT. HE HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE SOON INTENDS TO
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INITIATE UNITY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RUIZ GIMENEZ/GIL ROBLES "FEDERACION DEMOCRATA CRISTIANA," BUT THE OUTLINE OF A FORMULA WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE DEISRED CD UNITY WHILE RETAINING THE KIND OF LINKAGE WITH "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO" WHICH ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA DESIRES IS NOT YET CLEAR.

2. "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO" HOLDS RALLY. IN WHAT WAS BILLED AS THE COALITION'S "NATIONAL PRESENTATION," CENTRO LEADERS CABANILLAS, ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA, ORDONEZ, GARRIGUES, CAMUNAS, LARROQUE AND ANGULO MONTES (UDE) ADDRESSED SOME 1000 SUPPORTERS IN THE SOUTHERN COASTAL CITY OF ALICANTE. AMONG STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AT THE RALLY:

--ORDONEZ REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT SUAREZ'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY COMPROMISE THEIR FAIRNESS, BUT THAT "WE ARE NOT GOING TO ACQUIESCE IN AN ELECTORAL FARCE;"
--AND CAMUNAS THREATENED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CONTEST IF "ALL PARTIES ARE NOT GIVEN EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY" (SOME ARE INTERPRETING THIS AS CONDITIONING CAMUNAS' PARTICIPATION ON PCE LEGALIZATION, BUT WE VIEW IT AS A REITERATION OF THE DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENTAL EVEN-HANDEDNESS GENERALLY).

3. PSOE FEDERAL COMMITTEE MEETS. THE COMMITTEE MET OVER THE WEEKEND TO MASSAGE THE PSOE'S ELECTORAL LISTS AND TO DISCUSS ELECTION TACTICS GENERALLY. AFTER THE SESSION, PSOE SECGEN GONZALEZ TOLD REPORTERS THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS A DECISION TO BE MADE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME BY THE FEDERAL COMMITTEE, HE BELIEVED THE PARTY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTEST. GONZALEZ ALSO HAD HIS FIRST GOOD WORDS FOR THE GOS IN SOME TIME, AS HE COMPLIMENTED BOTH SUAREZ AND HIS CABINET. (WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT GONZALEZ BELIEVES THE GOVT HAS BACKED AWAY FROM ATTEMPTING TO USE THE PSOE-H AND OTHER CENTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEFT GROUPS TO CUT INTO THE PSOE'S ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY.)

4. PRISONER RELEASES CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS WHICH CITE JUSTICE MINISTRY SOURCES, AS OF 1200 APRIL 2, 2784 PRISONERS HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE DECREE-LAW EXPANDING THE KING'S AMNESTY/PARDON. OF THESE, 2637 (ALMOST ALL OF THEM "COMMON" CRIMINALS) HAD RECEIVED PARDONS, 1518 OF WHOM HAD BEEN RELEASED, WITH 1119 REMAINING IN PRISON SERVING SENTENCES FOR OTHER UNPARDONED OFFENSES. OF THE REMAINING 147 PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE AMNESTY PROVISIONS (I.E. THE "POLITICAL PRISONERS), 60 HAVE BEEN RELEASED, WITH 87 REMAINING INCARCERATED ON OTHER UNAMNESTIED CHARGES. EATON

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